



# VRS newsletter

## Winter 2014

### Happy (end of) Winter!

In Vershire it has been a long winter. We still have 3 feet of snow on the ground, but now that it is March we look forward to the arrival of warming sun! Soon our snowy fields will be green pastures again, and the horses will graze freely, waiting for our campers to return. We look forward to the day when we can release the horses from their winter paddocks into the grassy fields!



### Whinny's from the field

Looking out into the pastures our horses have nice round bellies and long furry coats. We are not the only ones anxious for warmer weather. The horses, standing taller with the new fallen snow, are continually testing the fences. Peter has had to corral Ms. Piggy and Pebbles on a few occasions when they pushed down the fence boards to go visit other paddocks. On one visit Hanzel became so smitten by Pebbles that he continued to whinny to her after she was put back in her own paddock. Poor little love struck Hanzel.



### Vershire Riding School \* Vershire, Vermont



We are excited to have Judy Ofchus, Sarah Faitell and Bridget Newman return this summer to teach riding! Sarah Fauver will also teach a few Adult weekends in the beginning of our summer. Judy, our Director of Riding, will continue to mentor our instructors as well as have a riding group of her own.



This winter we welcomed a gelding named Zeke to our horse family. Zeke has been a part of Vershire over the past few summers, and now will claim VRS as his permanent home. He settled in immediately with the geldings in the front paddock. Zeke will be a wonderful school horse for a camper this summer!

We will also be accepting into our herd Sigma Phi. He is a nineteen year old Thoroughbred/Percheron cross. Sigma Phi was donated to us from a previous camper, Sidra Dumont and her mom Karen. He looks, and sounds like a pleasure to ride!



We continue to think of, and design jumps to be built in Druids and the Main field. We will be making a new starting fence for the Elementary, Beginner Novice and Novice Eventers. This summer as an art activity we will be doing a “cross-country fence creativity session” to brainstorm new ideas for fences to add to our x-c course.



When the snow melts and the grass starts to grow in we will release our horses from their winter paddocks into the open fields. It is an amazing sight! Horses galloping and bucking from one end of the field to the other. Peter will be filming the horse-release and he will post a clip on Youtube with the link on our Facebook page. We usually move them to their fields at the end of April, or when the snow melts.



Main Field Stadium in Winter



This year we thanked our horses & ponies with our annual Super Delicious Bran Mash! After our helpers tasted & approved the batch we served it up. They loved it! And, so did the taste testers!

This summer we will post photos of the fences from all the cross-country courses on our Facebook page. This way campers, competitors, and anyone curious will be able to see the whole x-c course before they arrive to ride it.

In this years Bran Mash

- 100 pounds of Bran
- 50 pounds of Grain- Oats, Corn, Pressed Grain & Molasses
- 25 lbs. Carrots- chopped into pieces
- 30 lbs. of Apples- chopped into pieces
- Molasses!
- Plenty of Water
- & lots of Love!





We are excited to announce our  
**Wellness Camp Weekend** that we will be offering  
**May 30- June 2nd** and **September 5-8<sup>th</sup>**.

*The Wellness Camp is a weekend of Yoga, Art,  
 Nature, Health and Wellness.*

Throughout the day choose from a variety of classes in **Yoga** (4-5 classes a day), **Art**-(plein air painting, felting, etc.), **Nature**-(tracking, plant identification, hiking), **Meditation**-(sitting, walking, breathing), **Health** (juicing, cooking, cleansing), and **Wellness** (massage, Reiki, etc.).

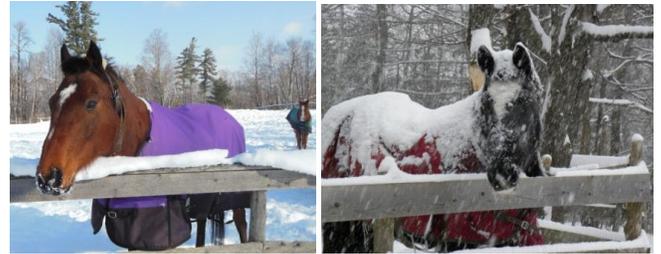
Our Wellness Weekends are open to Adults. Young Adults age 16+ may also attend. In conjunction with the Wellness Weekend we are offering a **Children's Camp** for ages 6-12, and 13-16. Adults may attend the Wellness Weekend, while their child has a great time at the Children's camp! *The Children's Camp will offer Arts & Crafts, Plant & Nature Programs, Kung Fu and Games- think massive capture the flag!* If you would like more information about the weekend please contact Sarah.



### Show & Event Photos

If you would like to order photos from our Events & Shows you may contact our photographer Stan Phaneuf directly. His email address is [phaneuf@pshift.com](mailto:phaneuf@pshift.com). The photos from our Shows and Events can be viewed on his website [www.stanphaneufphotography.com](http://www.stanphaneufphotography.com).

We are always adding new photos to our website. If you have a photo, or photos from camp that came out well and you like, please email a copy to Sarah. We love seeing photos from camp!



### The Little Red Riding School

We continue to be busy with preparations to open a nature based Early Childhood program The Little Red Riding School. Sarah Wright, having previously earned a Masters degree in Education, has taught at Waldorf schools in New York City, Shelburne & Tunbridge Vermont. This fall we will offer a Nursery and Kindergarten class at VRS. In the future we will add to the Early Childhood programs, offer afterschool workshops, and look at continuing classes into the grades.

Currently we are in the process of Licensing, Fund Raising and thinking about how wonderful this property will be for a school! If you would like more information, or are interested in offering a donation, please let Sarah know.

### Spring Riding Lessons

This May, Judy Ofchus, will be offering weekly riding lessons to the local Eventing community. Riders may take a lesson on one of our school horses, or you may bring your own horse for some private one-on-one. It is a great way to get a start off your summer of riding!

### V.R.S. riding lessons in Florida!

Judy is offering riding lessons this winter in the Melbourne, Grant and Sebastian area of Florida. If you are interested in her teaching a lesson you may contact Sarah for Judy's Florida contact information.

## VRS in the "off season"

Our riding school is open in its off season for barns, riding clubs and/or groups to come for lessons, trail riding or clinics. If you are interested please contact Sarah to reserve space.



"Like" our *Face book* page  
*Vershire Riding School*

And keep updated throughout the year on what is happening at the riding school.

We post our upcoming *Events & current photos!*  
You can also test your VRS horse identification skills by playing "Name that Equine!"  
*Facebook* is a great way to stay in touch with  
Vershire Alumni!



## Farm & Garden

This spring we will continue to work on our Organic vegetable garden. Last fall we added raised beds near the Dining Hall patio. When the kitchen wants fresh produce they can step outside the kitchen door and pick it! This spring we are excited to add additional perennial fruits. We welcome any help in the gardens keeping the weeds in check!

## Scholarships, Barter or Trade

The Vershire Riding School continues to offer partial scholarships to people who would like to attend one of our programs, but are unable due to financial concerns. If you are interested in a partial scholarship or barter/ trade contact Sarah at: [vershireridingschool@yahoo.com](mailto:vershireridingschool@yahoo.com) and she will email you the form.

If you would like to **contribute** to the **Scholarship Fund**, to make it possible for even more students to attend Vershire, please contact Sarah.



## V.R.S Diaries

We continue to add your photos and stories to our "VRS Diaries" page on our website – [www.vershireridingschool.com](http://www.vershireridingschool.com)

See some of the horses & ponies who have been part of our program. Going back all the way to 1970! If you have a photo or story about one of your favorite Vershire Riding School horses please email Sarah.

We send our best wishes to you,

and we hope to see you this summer!

Sarah, Peter, Gabriel, Daniel  
& the Horses

## Vershire Riding School



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